

**Listing of the Claims:**

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1. (Currently amended) A permanently fireproof flame guard having a flow cross section ~~(2)~~ that terminates a conduit, in which there is a flame guard insert having a large number of passage gaps ensuring that it is permanently fireproof, characterized in that, within the flow cross section ~~(2)~~, at least one concentric solid annular section ~~(5)~~ is formed so as to be solid without the passage gaps, and that on both sides of said at least one solid annular section there are ~~around which~~ annular sections ~~(4)~~ having the passage gaps ~~are formed~~, wherein said at least one solid annular section is sufficiently sized to dissipate heat in the concentric region within the flow cross section.
2. (currently amended) The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the cross-sectional area of the flame guard insert ~~(4, 5)~~ with the passage gaps is greater than the cross-sectional area without passage gaps.
3. (Currently amended) The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a centrally arranged core is provided as a concentric section ~~(11)~~.
4. (Currently amended) The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that at least one of the concentric section and the at least one solid annular section ~~(5, 11)~~ is formed of a highly thermally conductive material.
5. (Currently amended) The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, within the flow cross section ~~(2)~~, a plurality of solid annular sections are provided as concentric sections ~~(5)~~, which are in each case followed in the radial direction by annular sections ~~flame guard arrangements ~~(4)~~~~ with passage gaps.

6. (Currently amended) The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that at least one of the concentric section and the at least one solid annular section ~~(5, 11)~~ is formed from a smooth metal strip ~~(42)~~ wound spirally closely on itself.

7. (Currently amended) The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the passage gaps of the flow cross section ~~(2)~~ are formed by a corrugated metal strip ~~(41)~~ wound together spirally with a smooth metal strip ~~(42)~~.

8. (Currently amended) The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the flow cross section ~~92)~~ has an annular form.